

ment, proceed with Senator Merz's. The farmers throughout the state will have a chance to testify later on in front of Senator Schmit's Ag Committee on LR 146.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask Senator Merz one question, please. Senator Merz, I certainly have nothing against your resolution. Is it your intention to do this immediately so that we can advise the group in Omaha shortly? Or is it your wish that we study this and make more definite decisions as to what we're going to do in a positive way? I'd just like to know. If you want this immediately, it's okay with most of us, I suppose.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Merz, you want to respond.

SENATOR MERZ: Yes. I think we should vote on this immediately. In response to your second question, as I said before, this is just a stepping stone. I think we should carry this further. We should encourage this meeting in Omaha, Friday. This will be the best way, I know, that we could possibly help move this meeting, and show what this body feels in regard to this meeting. As I say, I'll support any other resolution in the future, that we have hearings on. I think hearings are going to be necessary. I think this should be part of our legislation this term. We have problems with water. We have problems with electricity. We have problems all over the state with different situations. But this is our biggest problem. How can we ignore the biggest problem? Let's put more effort into this. Then, as time comes, pick up the smaller ones. I always think the biggest item should be first.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Does that answer your question?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, thank you Senator Merz. Mr. Chairman, in that case, I would suggest that we not go along with Senator Maresh, instead go ahead and pass the resolution so that Senator Merz has what he wants shortly.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, since Senator Rasmussen has a resolution that does about the same thing, I heard it when it was read, but I don't have a copy of it. I think if we're going to hold a hearing on that it would be in order to pass on this one quickly, to get the message to the Secretary of Agriculture Bergland when he's in Omaha.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: So are you asking unanimous consent to withdraw your motion?

SENATOR MARESH: Right.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: All right. Any objection? It's so ordered. It's withdrawn. So that's it, it's done. Now we have before us the resolution itself. I believe there are some amendments to the.... Let's take up the amendments that are on the desk, Mr. Clerk. That has been withdrawn. Senator Maresh has withdrawn his motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, I then have a motion on the desk. Read Bereuter amendment found on page 153 of the Journal.